

Langley Heritage Society

{Spring 2017}

Langley Heritage Society
P.O. Box 982
Fort Langley, B.C.
V1M 2S3

"Providing the window into the past to preserve Langley's heritage for today and tomorrow"

President's Message - Spring 2017 {By Fred Pepin}

We are very saddened by the passing of Bays Blackhall, who devoted so much time and energy to improving our community spirit. Our condolences to her husband, Bob, and her family.

The AGM was very well attended. Thank you to everyone who helped, to Jane Watt for the books for prizes, and to Warren Sommer for his presentation about Langley and World War I.

Three outstanding community volunteers retired from our Board of Directors this year. Ellen Worrell, Kay McComish and Sharon Johnson have devoted their time, knowledge, and friendship to our deliberations for many years. We wish them all the best as they continue to be involved in the heritage society and the community. The new directors are Jim Foulkes, Margo Harrison, and Tom Hammel.

The revised constitution and by-laws were approved at the AGM. Mark Forsythe introduced our renewed website, which is attracting large numbers of visitors. Many LHS members have been assisting with this project, as well as Brookwood Secondary School students.

This past fiscal year LHS sponsored 2370 students from 9 Langley schools to attend programs at the Langley Centennial Museum. We also sponsored the first and second Heritage Fairs, with four Langley schools participating this year.

We could use your help volunteering to greet the friendly and appreciative visitors at the CN station this summer.

Fred Pepin
LHS President

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Want to Know More?

Langley Heritage Society
is online and updated!

Go to www.langleyheritage.ca
for society news, membership
information, photographs, project
updates, and more.

To contact the LHS, please email us
at: info@langleyheritage.ca

Tribute to Bays Blackhall – 1930 - 2017.



Bays with Sharon at Annual Pepin Picnic



Bays reads "The Fort" Newspaper



Bays at a Fort Langley Parade

Bays was proud to be a "Railroader" and volunteered for many years to help acquire, renovate, and open to the public the CN Station, caboose and railcar.

She willingly donated countless hours since joining the Society to ensure thousands of people each year could enjoy the restored CN Station.

In her monthly reports on the CN Station at meetings and in the newsletters, Bays proudly portrayed how well loved the Station was by the public and the good job being done by the "Railroaders."

Bays was a strong supporter of Fort Langley and all aspects of heritage in Langley. She was known for writing numerous letters to the editor over the years.

When Bays believed in an idea, she made it happen! sj



Bays - the heart and soul of the CN Station. km



Bays at Fort Langley's Community Hall



Bays Gives Station Report at Pepin Picnic



Bays and Bob at the Opening of the Hassel House.

Bays was an amazing individual, and a tireless and devoted volunteer in our community. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy and a big pair of shoes to fill. kr

Bays, we appreciated all your services to Langley's heritage, and shall miss you, always.

Spring at the Station

{By Diane Simpson}

Spring was always an especially busy time at the Station. Before all the snow was melted, the first boxes of chicks began to arrive from the Hatchery. That meant lots of kindling and coal at the ready. Dad would first open each box and count all the healthy chicks so the farmer would be accurately charged by the Hatchery. Brian and I carried the chicks who didn't survive out to the side yard and gave them a proper teary funeral. The benches in the waiting room closest next to the heater were stacked with the unmistakable long, flat boxes with the breathing holes. The ironing board was set up in the living room right beside the heater for more boxes, as well as the chairs in the kitchen. By the time they were all in place, the whole station seemed to reverberate to the low roar of the tiny chicks cheeping and stomping. Dad was soon busily cranking the old oak telephone on the office wall, informing the farmers so that they could get their brooder lamps on, heat up the hen house and get into town quickly. By the time the chicks were all on their way to the farms, and the station cooled down, it had been a busy day for both Mom and Dad. For a day or two there was a faint scent of chick fluff and feed permeating the whole station.

All kinds of unusual freight came off that noon train besides store groceries, mail and chicks from the Hatchery. Two brothers, having a farm east of the town, used to ship a nanny goat and two kids to Manitoba once a year, always showing up after supper with the goats. Dad would groan a little as he heard the goats bleating away in the most rickety cage imaginable, fashioned of chicken wire and laths, with a little sort of sidecar for the kids. He would bring them into the freight shed, and with a determined look, get a hammer and some small nails to try and make it strong enough to last the journey. Brian and I would suppress a little laugh as we hunted for the Band-aids, because Dad's skills did not extend to carpentering. The goats would bleat all night in the freight shed and we were all quite happy when they got loaded on the train next day.

Farm dogs also came on the train, and if they arrived on the Friday of a big spring blizzard, we had them in the warm waiting room to care for until the roads cleared on Monday. Of course, by then, the pups were members of our family, and there were two very long faces waving them goodbye to weak invitations from the farmers for us to visit after they got home. Once, though, an especially cute puppy came, tricolour and just full of beans. Dad kept up the usual "the farmer will soon be in for his pup," but finally on Monday he surprised us – that wonderful puppy was ours! We had great times with that pup Chris. He soon became a very large dog. Actually, a few rather difficult times too. He liked to spend hot afternoons napping on Mrs. Deary's prize flowerbed in front of her hotel, even flattening all the sweet peas. He accumulated quite a few other little habits that gave us lots of problems. He followed me one day out to a friend's farm, where we were happily singing around the piano when I heard an awful roar in the farmyard. Their Uncle Fred had jumped into his truck with a broom to go after Chris, who was guiltily running down the road in the ditch with a chicken in his mouth. When Uncle Fred caught up with him, he jumped out of the truck, fell over the broom and rolled into the ditch, only to find that the "chicken" was actually a desiccated old bird that had expired behind his henhouse several weeks ago. We certainly had to make sure Chris was tied up at home when we went out to that farm again!

Langley Heritage Society's February Social



LHS president, Fred Pepin, welcomed 50 people who filled Milner Church to hear community heritage partners speak about upcoming activities. Warren Sommer outlined his new Great War book, *Canucks in Khaki*; Allan Snowie, from the Canadian Museum of Flight, detailed a project to build two Sopwith aircraft and fly them during 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge commemorations this spring in Vimy, France; Maureen Pepin described the new *We Are Kwantlen* exhibit at the Langley Centennial Museum; Doris Riedweg outlined plans for a new archival project from the Langley Memorial Hospital Heritage Committee; Brigitte Wieronski zeroed in big plans at the Fort Langley National Historic Site during this sesquicentennial year; and Todd Davidson looked ahead to activities at the BC Farm Museum. LHS Board Member, Sharon Johnson, also explained changes to the society's bylaws coming soon to meet new requirements in the Societies Act. A delicious lunch was served by the Social Committee in the Church hall to complete the afternoon.



Warren Sommer



Allan Snowie



Kay McComish



Brigitte Wieronski



Doris Riedweg



Maureen Pepin



Fred Pepin



Todd Davidson



Sharon Johnson

Wilson's Tree

{By Mark Forsythe}

The broad leaf maple that stood at the corner of 96th Ave and Glover Road for almost 100 years was recently cut down because of disease. It commemorated the sacrifice of William Arthur Wilson, killed in action at Passchendaele in 1917. A hardier sugar maple sapling has been planted and re-dedicated by the Township of Langley and Langley Heritage Society. Langley Heritage Society president Fred Pepin, historian Warren Sommer and piper Colin Barrett helped with the re-dedication on April 23rd, along with Township Mayor Froese and councillors. LHS board member, Tom Annndale, is also pictured. One day after the W.A. Wilson Memorial Tree was re-dedicated, someone used a tractor to knock the tree down and two new street signs. A new sapling was replanted. Thank you to the Township for their speedy work.



FLAG Begins 24th Season at the CN Station

{By Margo Harrison}

The Fort Langley Artists Group (FLAG) is looking forward to the 2017 showing season at Fort Langley's Heritage CN Train Station, where the baggage room is transformed into the "FlagStop Art Gallery". Since 1993, FLAG artists have volunteered their time from 12 to 4 on weekends and holidays from mid-May to Labour Day , welcoming the public to this very special space. This year,

the fourteen artists in the group have planned three shows for that time period. The first show, on the theme of “Sunlight and Shadows”, runs from May 20th to June 18th. We welcome everyone to our opening reception on Saturday, May 20th from 12 to 4 PM.

The second show, “Artists’ Choice”, is on display from June 24th to July 30th. As the title suggests, each artist chooses their best pieces for the show. For the first time, volunteers from FLAG will be stamping passports for the Canada Day celebrations on Saturday, July 1st.

The third show, on the theme of “The Four Seasons”, runs from August 5th to September 4th. On Labour Day, Monday, September 4th, FLAG artists will be working on site from 12 to 4 PM. This is a popular event where the public can view artists in action and see a wide variety of media, styles and subject matter.

FLAG invites you to drop by our baggage room “gallery” to say hello and feast your eyes on our latest artistic creations. We miss our biggest cheerleader, Bays Blackhall, and would like to dedicate our 2017 season to her memory.

New LHS Website {By Mark Forsythe}

The new LHS website has launched! Please take time to explore and share the link with as many folks as you can. You will see numerous links at the top of the main page, and when you scroll down you'll see square buttons linked to various features. Please visit the website at: www.langleyheritage.ca.

The new and improved site features photos and profiles of all of our restored buildings and other projects that LHS has worked on, three videos (CN Station, Wark/Dumais House and Michaud House -- with another to come on Dixon House), a hat's New page, Community Stories (we want yours!), walking tours & maps, info on our school programs, Milner Church Speaker series, current projects (e.g. Haldi House), membership, advocacy & volunteer information, LHS newsletter archives, links to our heritage partners and more.

LHS Website - Call for Stories

So far, the new Langley Heritage Society website has stories about Riding the Rails from Saskatchewan to Langley in the Dirty Thirties, farmers fishing the Fraser River in Langley to supplement their incomes, and a cougar hunt in Stanley Park that involved local hunter Max Michaud in 1911. It would be great to have members send us theirs (with photos please) via info@langleyheritage.ca.

Looking at Langley History: The Proberts

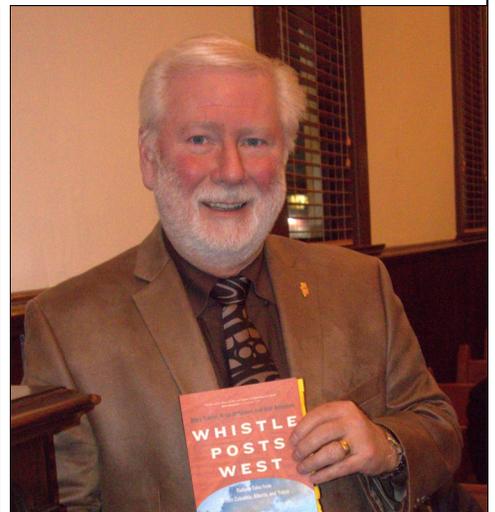
{By Maureen Pepin}

Frederick Probert was born in Wales on September 17, 1890, the youngest son of a family of ten children. Two of his older brothers, Walter and Dearman, came to Canada in the early 1900s. Fred followed when he was 17 and worked in Saskatchewan. In 1911, following the murder of Dearman, who lived at Whonnock, he came to BC and took up commercial fishing. In 1913, Fred married Beulah Cornock, the youngest child of John and Eliza Cornock, who was born in 1894 in Ontario. The newlyweds settled down in Glen Valley, close to the senior Cornocks. They had a large family of nine children (five girls and four boys): Dearman, Lloyd, Mildred, Ethel, Walter, Dorothy, Evelyn, Edward, and Carol. In those days, babies were born at home with the help of midwives or neighbours.

The family was introduced to two new experiences in the 1920s: a ride in their uncle's Model T Ford, and a new radio. Some of the children spent most of their time going from room to room trying to find the people behind the voices, and the dog sat outside the house barking at the strange voices he could hear. Prior to the coming of the radio, they entertained themselves by playing cards or board games or reading. Their love of reading was helped by the coming of the Fraser Valley Library in the early thirties.

The worst thing that happened to the Proberts occurred in April 1930. Their house burned to the ground and everything was lost except the clothes they were wearing. Fortunately, no one was home at the time. The neighbours held a shower to help replace household goods. They lived in two large tents with wooden floors and then gradually put walls and a roof over their heads. The worst part of this tragedy was that the house burned just as the depression was under way.

In 1935, Dearman married Hilda Parish from County Line, and in 1936 Lloyd married Nellie Leaf. Ethel graduated in 1937 from Langley High School and moved away from Glen Valley.



The first LHS Members' Meeting of 2017 was a huge success! A full house at Milner Chapel for Brian Antonson's "Whistle Posts West" presentation. Photographs courtesy of Mark Forsythe.

Langley Heritage Society 2017-2018 Speaker Schedule

Members' meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at historic Milner Chapel, located at 6716 - 216th Street.

Stay for social time, coffee & refreshments after.

Stay Tuned

The Summer 2017 newsletter will have all of the members' meeting speakers and dates listed in this side panel for your convenience.

Supporters & Suppliers

The Langley Heritage Society wishes to express our gratitude to supporters who contribute to our projects. We endorse the following businesses:

Bob McPherson, electrician
(604-530-8715)

Terry Tokiwa, plumber
(604-533-1983)

Robertson Plastics
(604-533-4055)

Charlie Ness, plumbing/
renovation (604-626-2911)
Dave at DJ Hockin Painting &
Decorating (604-850-8520)
Nufloors (604-533-4231)

Upcoming Programs and Events

BC Farm Museum Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting {June 17, 2017}

Join the museum at 2:00pm at the museum's front door for this special event, which will include the unveiling of the MURALS and the ribbon cutting on the renovated Woodworking and Mechanical Workshops! Refreshments will be served.

Museum After Dark: Surrey Speakeasy {June 22, 2017}

This is an exclusive opportunity to enter the Surrey Museum's vault and explore a hand-picked array of Roaring Twenties artifacts. Enjoy whiskey tasting with a local expert. Listen to smoky blues music by showman, musicologist, and vocalist performer, Professor Douglas Fraser. Sample delicious Mediterranean tapas from Greco's Deli. Tickets are \$18 and must be purchased in advance at 604-592-6956. This event is 19+.

Canadian Museum of Flight - Strawberry Everything {June 24, 2017}

Come by the CMF Hangar between 6-9pm for strawberry shortcake and other berry delights, followed by one big, sweet aviation movie with lots of strawberry popcorn. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids.

Fort Langley's Canada Day Festivities {July 1, 2017}

Fort Langley is THE PLACE to be this year to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Join the Langley Heritage Society, the BC Farm and Machinery Museum, the Langley Centennial Museum and many more fantastic local organizations between 11am-3pm. Check out <http://celebratecanadaday.ca> for more details.

Pepin Picnic {August 20, 2017}

Bring something to barbecue and something to share (such as casserole, salad, dessert, fruit, vegetables, buns, pickles, etc). Maureen will call to check to see if you are coming. Bring your bathing suit if the weather is warm.